

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140321

USOECN, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: BELGIAN OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION

REF: OECD PARIS 13089, B) COCOM DOC. PROC (77) 2.3

USDEL MAY COMMUNICATE FOLLOWING TO BELGIAN DEL ON CRITERION
PROPOSAL:

1. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE QUICK
BELGIAN RESPONSE TO ITS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE BELGIAN
PROPOSAL FOR AN "OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION" AND WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING BELGIAN COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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A) THE BELGIAN STATEMENT THAT THE LAST LIST REVIEW ONLY
RESULTED IN THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF ITEMS FROM 151
TO 149 OVERLOOKS THE MANY ITEMS FOR WHICH CUTOFFS WERE
LIBERALIZED TO REMOVE FROM COVERAGE OUTMODED TECHNOLOGY
AND PRODUCTS. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT BELGIUM DOES NOT
JUDGE IT EXPEDIENT AT THIS STAGE TO DRAW UP A "GLOBAL
INVENTORY" OF ITEMS MEETING THE PROPOSED TEST OF FIVE YEAR

COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY IN THE WEST. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE BELGIAN DELEGATE WOULD GIVE SOME EXAMPLES AS TO HOW IT MIGHT BE APPLIED TO SPECIFIC ITEMS.

B)C)D)E)F) BELGIAN ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS FOR THE EXAMPLES CHOSEN BY BELGIUM IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION A) WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR OTHERS TO EVALUATE THE PROPOSAL MUCH MORE INTELLIGENTLY.

G) THE BELGIAN MEMORANDUM STATES THAT, UNDER THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL, IF UNANIMITY IS NOT REACHED ON THE RETENTION OF A COMMODITY UNDER EMBARGO, THAT COMMODITY WILL BE RELEASED. IS IT REALLY THE INTENT THAT ANY ONE COUNTRY COULD REMOVE ONE OR MORE ITEMS FROM THE LIST, WHETHER OR NOT ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR PERHAPS ALL OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES, FELT THOSE ITEMS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE EMBARGOED?

2. THE U.S. ACCEPTS THE LOGIC OF GIVING A PRIORITY TO REVIEWING ITEMS WHICH HAVE FOR MANY YEARS BEEN AVAILABLE NOT ONLY IN THE WEST BUT ALSO IN PROSCRIBED DESTINATIONS. HOWEVER, THE U.S. THINKS IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE APPLICABILITY OF THIS APPROACH TO SPECIFIC ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT RULE OF UNANIMITY BEFORE SEEKING CONSIDERATION OF A CHANGE IN THAT RULE. CHRISTOPHER

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